

# matthew

## experiencing the presence of the Kingdom

### ----> connect this week...

As we study and embrace the crucifixion of our Savior, it's important that we prepare our hearts. Take some time before you begin and meditate on WHO Jesus is. Think of all you've learned about Him throughout this study. Think about how He views you. You are His adopted child; one whom He calls friend; one whom He came to serve; one whom He gave up His heavenly throne for; one for whom He was willing to suffer and die. As you read these passages in Matthew take hold of the fact that He suffered in this way for **YOU**—in your place (Isaiah 53).

Ask God to engrave this truth on your heart and in your mind. Invite His Spirit to renew your mind with His Word and do the transforming work in you that pleases Him (Romans 12:1-2). Allow yourself to absorb the magnitude of this event—that looks so tragic from a human perspective, but miraculous—beyond comprehension when viewed through spiritual eyes.

#### **Think about:**

His grace, His mercy, His unconditional love, His sacrifice, His pain, His salvation, His eternal plan, His redemption, As you answer the questions and ponder His grace—ask yourself this question: **What more could I ask for?**

### ----> notes...

**Flogging:** (v. 26) Among the Jews scourging was limited to forty lashes (Deut. 25:3; cf. 2 Cor. 11:24), but the Romans were restricted by nothing but their strength and whim. The whip was the dreaded *flagellum*, made by plaiting pieces of bone or lead into leather thongs. The victim was stripped and tied to a post. Severe flogging not only reduced the flesh to bloody pulp, but could open up the body until the bones were visible and the entrails exposed. Flogging as an independent punishment not infrequently ended in death. It was also used to weaken the prisoner before crucifixion.<sup>1</sup>

**The cross:** Two thousand years of pious Christian tradition have largely domesticated the cross, making it hard for us to realize how it was viewed in Jesus' time. Crucifixion was unspeakably painful and degrading. Whether tied or nailed to a cross, the victim endured countless paroxysms as he pulled with his arms and pushed with his legs to keep his chest cavity open for breathing and then collapsed in exhaustion until the demand for oxygen demanded renewed paroxysms. The scourging, the loss of blood, the shock from the pain, all produced agony that could go on for days, ending at last by suffocation, cardiac arrest, or loss of blood. When there was reason to hasten death, the execution squad would smash the victim's legs. Death followed almost immediately, either from shock or from collapse that cut off breathing.

Beyond the pain was the shame. In ancient sources, crucifixion was universally viewed with horror. In Roman law it was reserved only for the worst criminals and lowest classes. No Roman citizen could be crucified without a direct edict from Caesar.

Among Jews the horror of the cross was greater still because of Deuteronomy 21:23: "Anyone who is hanged on a tree is under God's curse." In Israelite law this meant the corpse of a judicially executed criminal was hung up for public exposure that branded him as cursed by God. The words were also applied in Jesus' day to anyone crucified; and therefore the Jews demanded that Jesus be crucified rather than banished was aimed at arousing maximum public revulsion toward him.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Frank E. Gaebelin, General Editor; Matthew: D. A. Carson*

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----> **connect...** All week take time to focus on what's discussed on the "connect this week" page. Review lessons, skim Matthew, whatever will help you to focus on God with determination to personalize and internalize His Word.

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 27:11-25. Jesus is now enduring His "civil" trial in a Roman court before Pilate the governor.

1. What does Pilate ask? And Jesus reply? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe what takes place in verses 12-14. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. Why was Pilate amazed? \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Why do you think Jesus stayed silent? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. According to verses 15-18, what was the governor's custom at the Feast? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. Who is Barabbas? \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. What does Pilate ask the crowd? \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. What did Pilate know? (v. 18) \_\_\_\_\_
4. While Pilate was listening to his frantic wife, what were the chief priests and elders doing (vv.19-20)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. What was Pilate's wife saying? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Who did the crowd want released? \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. What did they want done with Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. Did Pilate believe Jesus was guilty (vv.23-24)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 d. Listen to what the people say in verse 25. What are they saying? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. What did Pilate do in verse 26? \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. Read the notes about flogging on the previous page. Who did they flog? \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Who did they flog according to Isaiah 9:6? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. Why did Jesus submit to this according to 1 Peter 2:23-25? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 d. Share your thoughts \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Does this *knowledge* of your King increase your *love* for Him? Does it motivate you to *obey* Him? What is your response? Talk to your Messiah.

----> **apply...** Write our "focus" question in your journal and record any thought you have. What more could I ask for?

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----> **connect** ... Use the "connect this week and notes" page. Take your time as you study today. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts.

----> **discover**... Read Matthew 27:27-31 slowly. Jesus has just been flogged.

1. What happened next to your King? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

a. What's your initial reaction? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Who did they do this to according to John 1:1-14? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Why did God submit to such treatment according to John 3:16? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Matthew 27:32-44. Why do you think they needed someone to help Jesus carry His cross? \_\_\_\_\_

a. Where did they go? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What did they offer Jesus? (Note: wine with gall served as a pain killing narcotic. Why do you think Jesus refused the mixture? \_\_\_\_\_

c. What sign did they place above His head? \_\_\_\_\_

d. Who all mocked Jesus (v. 38-44)? \_\_\_\_\_

e. What did they say? \_\_\_\_\_

f. From a human perspective, was this making sense to the crowd? Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

g. What do you learn about the plans and mind of God from this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

h. What does Isaiah 55:8-9 say? \_\_\_\_\_

i. What was God's "higher" plan? \_\_\_\_\_

j. Why did your King endure this according to Hebrews 12:3? \_\_\_\_\_

k. Share your thoughts. What are you learning about your gracious King? \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider**... "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth." Isaiah 53:7.

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----> **connect...** Use the "connect this week" page. Take your time as you study today. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts.

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 27:45-50.

1. What happened from the sixth hour to the ninth hour (12:00-3:00 p.m.)? \_\_\_\_\_  
  - a. What was going on during that time according to verse 46 and 2 Corinthians 5:21? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Why did Jesus submit to this according to 2 Corinthians 5:21? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. At the end of this time, what happened (v. 50)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What did He cry out according to John 19:30? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. What was accomplished (finished) at this point according to Hebrews 9:26b-28? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Think about the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. How was He treated by:
  - a. The religious leaders \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The Roman officials \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. The mob \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. The crucifixion squad \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. His disciples \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. His family \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. His Father \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Again...why? Answer according to Hebrews 12:2-3. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Where are we to "fix our eyes?" \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Are we now exempt from suffering according to 1 Peter 2:20-21? Who is our example? Any comments? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. What happened "at that moment" as recorded in Matthew 27:51-56? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. What did the centurion and guards recognize? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Why were the women there? Who were they? \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Describe Jesus' burial as recorded in verses 57-60. \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. What has stood out to you as you have studied the last 24 hours of Jesus' life? (Read the notes on the "cross" provided.) \_\_\_\_\_

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- > **consider...** Jesus was dead—no doubt. He was embalmed and placed in a tomb. Do you understand and accept the fact that it was the Father's will that He suffer for YOU? "Yet it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer..." Isaiah 53:10 There's an old hymn that says, "Amazing love, how can it be, that Thou my God shouldst die for me. Are you amazed? Tell your Father.
- > **apply...** Read the following poem entitled "What More do I Need?" Journal your thoughts.

## WHAT MORE COULD I ASK FOR?

What more could I ask for?  
What more do I need?  
I'm overwhelmed and I'm humbled  
by the words that I read.  
Jesus—did you really suffer for me?  
What more could I ask for  
What more do I need?

Was my name on your mind  
as they beat you and mocked?  
Was my sin on your heart  
as toward Golgotha you walked?  
Was my fate then made yours,  
as my sin became you?  
These thoughts are too much...  
my praises too few.

O Jesus, forgive me  
for my selfish pursuits.  
I must seem so shallow  
in my prayers before You.  
Make the joy of your cross  
be my constant gaze.  
May my life now reflect  
your forgiveness and grace.

What more could I ask for?  
What more do I need?  
What more could you offer?  
You gave YOURSELF for me.  
What more do I dare ask...  
What more do I need?

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----> **connect...** Use the "connect this week" page. Take your time as you study today. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts.

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 27:62-65.

1. What did the chief priests and Pharisees do to make sure Jesus' tomb was secure? \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. Why were they worried about it? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Read Matthew 28:1-10. Why was there a violent earthquake? \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. What did the angel do? \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. What was his appearance like? \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. What happened to the guards? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did the angel instruct the women? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What were they feeling according to verse 8? \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. Jesus met them. How did they respond? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Read the "cover-up" job in verses 11-15. What was their plan? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. Christ's resurrection is the basis of Christianity.  
 a. If Christ has not been raised—where would we be (v. 17)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Where would our hope be? \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. What does Paul say in 1 Corinthians 15:20? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Jesus' resurrection is a historical fact. No one has been able to successfully refute it. How does this fact bring you hope? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. Has this study increased your faith in the Word of God? (Matthew 24:35) In what ways? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Can God's Word be trusted? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
8. What have you found especially interesting and/or meaningful from your study this week? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Christianity is set apart from all the other religions. It is based on a relationship with a living God, not a religion based on *ritual* and *tradition*. Jesus died to make this relationship possible. He rose to make it living. Will you praise Him?

----> **apply...** In your journal record what you want to remember from your study this week.

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----> **connect...** Use the "connect this week" page. Take your time as you study today. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts.

----> **discover...** Jesus met His disciples back where they began—in Galilee. He commissioned them. He laid out for them their responsibility as His "brothers."

1. Write out Matthew 28:18-20 in the space provided: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- a. How much authority does Jesus have? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Who can become His disciples? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. In whose name will disciples be baptized? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. What are disciples to be taught? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. What promise do we have of Jesus' presence? For how long? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Skim through your lessons of the last 16 weeks. Re-examine your Review pages. If someone were to ask you to describe your King, what would you say? (Interview style).

- a. Question: What's your King like?  
Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Q: Why do you love Him?  
A: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Q: Do you really believe He died for you?  
A: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Q: How does this "kingdom" operate?  
A: \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Q: What's your responsibility?  
A: \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Q: Do you have help?  
A: \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Q: When will you see your King?  
A: \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Q: How do I become part of this kingdom?  
A: \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Do you think the Great Commission (28:18-20) applies to us today? Talk to God about how you can be a part of His plan.

----> **apply...** Write out Matthew 28:18-20 in your journal. Who in your life needs to know Jesus?

